

Whereas the Dead Sea's water level continues to fall about a meter a year;

Whereas the decline in water level of the Dead Sea has resulted in significant environmental damage, including loss of freshwater springs, river bed erosion, and over 1,000 sinkholes;

Whereas mismanagement has resulted in the dumping of sewage, fish pond runoff, and salt water into the Jordan River and has led to the pollution of the Jordan River with agricultural and industrial effluents;

Whereas the World Monuments Fund has listed the Jordan River as one of the world's 100 most endangered sites;

Whereas widespread consensus exists regarding the need to address the degradation of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea;

Whereas the Governments of Jordan and Israel, as well as the Palestinian Authority (the "Beneficiary Parties"), working together in an unusual and welcome spirit of cooperation, have attempted to address the Dead Sea water level crisis by articulating a shared vision of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept;

Whereas Binyamin Ben Eliezar, the Minister of National Infrastructure of Israel, has said, "The Study is an excellent example for cooperation, peace, and conflict reduction. Hopefully it will become the first of many such cooperative endeavors";

Whereas Mohammed Mustafa, the Economic Advisor for the Palestinian Authority, has said, "This cooperation will bring wellbeing for the peoples of the region, particularly Palestine, Jordan, and Israel . . . We pray that this type of cooperation will be a positive experience to deepen the notion of dialogue to reach solutions on all other tracks";

Whereas Zafer al-Alem, the former Water Minister of Jordan, has said, "This project is a unique chance to deepen the meaning of peace in the region and work for the benefit of our peoples";

Whereas the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept envisions a 110-mile pipeline from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea that would descend approximately 1,300 feet creating an opportunity for hydroelectric power generation and desalination, as well as the restoration of the Dead Sea;

Whereas some have raised legitimate questions regarding the feasibility and environmental impact of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept;

Whereas the Beneficiary Parties have asked the World Bank to oversee a feasibility study and an environmental and social assessment whose purpose is to conclusively answer these questions;

Whereas the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept would not address the degradation of the Jordan River;

Whereas the Beneficiary Parties could address the degradation of the Jordan River by designing a comprehensive strategy that includes tangible steps related to water conservation, desalination, and the management of sewage and agricultural and industrial effluents; and

Whereas Israel and the Palestinian Authority are expected to hold high-level meetings in the Washington area in the winter of 2007 to seek an enduring solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) calls the world's attention to the serious and potentially irreversible degradation of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea;

(2) applauds the cooperative manner with which the Governments of Israel and Jordan, as well as the Palestinian Authority (the "Beneficiary Parties"), have worked to address the declining water level and quality of the Dead Sea and other water-related challenges in the region;

(3) supports the Beneficiary Parties' efforts to assess the environmental, social, health, and economic impacts, costs, and feasibility of the Red Sea-Dead Sea Water Conveyance Concept in comparison to alternative proposals, such as those that focus on the restoration of the Jordan River;

(4) encourages the Governments of Israel and Jordan, as well as the Palestinian Authority, to continue to work in a spirit of cooperation as they address the region's serious water challenges;

(5) urges Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority to develop a comprehensive strategy to rectify the degradation of the Jordan River; and

(6) hopes the spirit of cooperation manifested by the Beneficiary Parties in their search for a solution to the Dead Sea water crisis might serve as a model for addressing the degradation of the Jordan River, as well as a model of peace and cooperation for the upcoming meetings in the Washington area between Israel and the Palestinian Authority as they seek to resolve long-standing disagreements and to develop a durable solution to the Arab-Israeli crisis.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 53—CONDEMNING THE KIDNAPPING AND HOSTAGE-TAKING OF 3 UNITED STATES CITIZENS FOR OVER 4 YEARS BY THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES OF COLOMBIA (FARC), AND DEMANDING THEIR IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 53

Whereas the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) is designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the Department of State;

Whereas the FARC utilizes kidnappings for ransom, extortion, and the drug trade to finance its activities;

Whereas the FARC has consistently committed atrocities against citizens of both Colombia and the United States, kidnapped at least 36 United States citizens since 1980, and killed 10 United States citizens;

Whereas an aircraft carrying United States citizens crashed over territory controlled by the FARC on February 13, 2003;

Whereas Keith Stansell, Thomas Howes, and Marc Gonsalves, 3 United States citizens on the aircraft, were taken hostage by the FARC on February 13, 2003;

Whereas the FARC murdered Tom Janis, another United States citizen on the downed aircraft;

Whereas 3 United States citizens on a subsequent search mission also lost their lives;

Whereas the 3 hostages were last shown alive on July 25, 2003, during a taped interview with the CBS news show "60 Minutes";

Whereas a police officer from Colombia who escaped from the FARC in April 2007 claims he saw the 3 United States hostages alive in April 2007;

Whereas at least 50 FARC leaders have been indicted in the United States for drug trafficking; and

Whereas Ricardo Palmera, the most senior FARC leader to be tried in the United States, was convicted of conspiring to take the United States citizens hostage in Colombia: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns the kidnappings of Keith Stansell, Thomas Howes, and Marc Gonsalves by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and calls for their immediate and unconditional release;

(2) condemns the FARC for holding these hostages for more than 4 years and demands to know their health and status;

(3) condemns the FARC for the murder of Tom Janis;

(4) condemns the FARC for its use of kidnapping for ransom, extortion, and drug trafficking and for supporting and spreading terror within Colombia;

(5) expresses sympathy to the relatives of the hostages who have been unsure of the fates of their family members for more than 4 years;

(6) reconfirms that the United States Government does not make concessions to terrorists; and

(7) reiterates that the United States Government supports efforts to secure the safe return of the hostages to the United States.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 54—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF A WEEK AS "NATIONAL CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION AND AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR AWARENESS WEEK"

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. FEINGOLD, and Mr. DORGAN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. CON. RES. 54

Whereas heart disease remains the leading cause of death in the United States;

Whereas heart disease affects men, women, and children of every age and race in the United States, regardless of where they live;

Whereas approximately 325,000 coronary heart disease deaths annually occur out of hospital or in an emergency room;

Whereas approximately 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before arriving at the hospital;

Whereas sudden cardiac arrest results from an abnormal heart rhythm in most adults;

Whereas in 27.4 percent of cases of sudden cardiac arrest, the victim is located in a place other than a hospital and receives cardiopulmonary resuscitation by a bystander;

Whereas prompt delivery of cardiopulmonary resuscitation more than doubles the chance of survival from sudden cardiac arrest by helping to maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain, increasing the amount of time that an electric shock from a defibrillator can be effective;

Whereas an automated external defibrillator, even when used by a bystander, is safe, easy to operate, and highly effective in restoring a normal heart rhythm, significantly increasing the chance of survival for many victims if used immediately after the onset of sudden cardiac arrest;

Whereas death or severe brain injury is likely to occur unless resuscitation measures are started no later than 10 minutes after the onset of sudden cardiac arrest;

Whereas the interval between the 911 call and the arrival of EMS personnel is typically longer than 5 minutes, and achieving high survival rates therefore depends on a public trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use; and

Whereas the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and the National

Safety Council are preparing related public awareness and training campaigns on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillation to be held during the first week of June each year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of a National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Awareness Week to establish well-organized programs to increase public training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use and to increase public access to automated external defibrillators; and

(2) calls upon the people of the United States and interested organizations to observe such a week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my good friend and colleague from Wisconsin, Senator FEINGOLD, in introducing a resolution in support of the designation of a week as National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Awareness Week.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in this country. Approximately 325,000 of the 450,000 coronary heart disease deaths that occur annually in the U.S. are due to sudden cardiac arrest suffered outside of the hospital or in hospital emergency departments. About 80 percent of the out-of-hospital cardiac arrests happen at home, so being properly trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation—or CPR—can mean the difference between life and death for a loved one.

Sudden cardiac arrest in adults is most often caused by an abnormal heart rhythm. While approximately 95 percent of sudden cardiac arrest victims die before reaching the hospital, death from sudden cardiac arrest is not inevitable. Prompt delivery of CPR can more than double an individual's chance of survival by helping to maintain vital blood flow to the heart and brain, increasing the window of opportunity in which an electric shock from an automated external defibrillator—or AED—can be effective.

AEDs are easy-to-use, computerized devices that can shock a heart back into normal rhythm and restore life to a cardiac arrest victim. Even when used by an untrained bystander, AEDs are safe and can be highly effective in restoring a normal heart rhythm. They must, however, be used promptly. For every minute that passes before a victim's normal heart rhythm is restored, his or her chance of survival falls by as much as 10 percent.

In 2000, Senator FEINGOLD and I introduced the Rural AED Act to increase access to AEDs for small towns and rural communities where those first on the scene may not be paramedics or others who would normally have AEDs. The Rural AED Act was subsequently signed into law and, since its passage, has provided rural communities with more than \$40 million to purchase AEDs. This has greatly increased access to these life-saving devices.

Now it is time to take another step. Increasing the number of Americans who are trained in CPR and AED use will help us to dramatically improve sudden cardiac arrest survival rates. The designation of a week as National Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Automated External Defibrillator Awareness Week will complement the campaigns that the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and the National Safety Council are preparing to increase public training in CPR and AED use and to increase public access to AEDs. I therefore urge all of our colleagues to join us as cosponsors of this resolution.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55—COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAILING OF THE NAVY'S "GREAT WHITE FLEET", LAUNCHED BY PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT ON DECEMBER 16, 1907, FROM HAMPTON ROADS, VIRGINIA, AND RETURNING THERE ON FEBRUARY 22, 1909

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. WEBB) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 55

Whereas the launching of the Great White Fleet marked the emergence of the United States as a true global seapower, able to dispatch 16 new battleships on a worldwide deployment for 14 months;

Whereas these battleships were painted entirely white, with gilded scrollwork on their bows, and subsequently came to be known as the "Great White Fleet";

Whereas the 4 squadrons of 4 battleships each, manned by 14,000 sailors, sailed 43,000 miles and made 20 port calls on 6 continents;

Whereas the Fleet, in conducting visits to important nations such as Australia, served to reinforce a friendship and partnership that continues to this day;

Whereas the Fleet, in providing a tangible demonstration of the forward naval presence of the United States in the Pacific, also reinforced the message of how important maritime stability and security are to the United States;

Whereas the Fleet, in response to one of the worst natural disasters in European history, was able to immediately divert to Messina, Sicily, to offer humanitarian aid to the Italian people; and

Whereas the Fleet, in executing a range of missions and returning to the United States after 14 months at sea, displayed to the world a number of core American values, including compassion, showed its flexibility by responding to unforeseen events, and demonstrated the ability of the United States to project maritime power as a stabilizing force: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the Congress—

(1) commemorates the wisdom of President Theodore Roosevelt in developing and launching the Great White Fleet;

(2) supports a one-time designation of a day to celebrate the 100th centennial of the Great White Fleet and the special role the Fleet played in building enduring friendships with important allies and partner nations;

(3) commends efforts by the Department of the Navy to maintain and strengthen our cooperative partnerships with foreign nations

and to safeguard our Nation's interests in the maritime domain;

(4) commends efforts by the Department of the Navy in leading the development of a Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower; and

(5) honors the sacrifices made and services rendered by the servicemembers of the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard and the civilians who constitute our maritime services.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 56—ENCOURAGING THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS TO TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE A PEACEFUL TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. CON. RES. 56

Whereas hundreds of thousands of citizens of Burma have risked their lives in demonstrations to demand a return to democracy and respect for human rights in their country;

Whereas the repressive military Government of Burma has conducted a brutal crackdown against demonstrators, which has resulted in mass numbers of killings, arrests, and detentions;

Whereas Burma has been a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) since 1997;

Whereas foreign ministers of other ASEAN member nations, in reference to Burma, have "demanded that the government immediately desist from the use of violence against demonstrators", expressed "revulsion" over reports that demonstrators were being suppressed by violent and deadly force, and called for "the release of all political detainees including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi";

Whereas the foreign ministers of ASEAN member nations have expressed concern that developments in Burma "had a serious impact on the reputation and credibility of ASEAN";

Whereas Ibrahim Gambari, the United Nations (UN) Special Envoy to Burma, has called on the member nations of ASEAN to take additional steps on the Burma issue, saying, "Not just Thailand but all the countries that I am visiting, India, China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the UN, we could do more";

Whereas the ASEAN Security Community Plan of Action adopted October 7, 2003, at the ASEAN Summit in Bali states that ASEAN members "shall promote political development . . . to achieve peace, stability, democracy, and prosperity in the region", and specifically says that "ASEAN Member Countries shall not condone unconstitutional and undemocratic changes of government";

Whereas the Government of Singapore, as the current Chair of ASEAN, will host ASEAN's regional summit in November 2007 to approve ASEAN's new charter;

Whereas the current Foreign Minister of Singapore, George Yeo, has publicly expressed, "For some time now, we had stopped trying to defend Myanmar internationally because it became no longer credible";

Whereas, according to the chairman of the High Level Task Force charged with drafting the new ASEAN Charter, the Charter "will make ASEAN a more rules-based organization and . . . will put in place a system of